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Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

Report of the Second Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Raymond **Landveld** (Suriname)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 16 September 2011, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-sixth session the item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)" and to allocate it to the Second Committee.

2. The Second Committee considered the item at its 31st, 34th and 39th meetings, on 1 and 10 November and 6 December 2011. An account of the Committee's discussion of the item is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.2/66/SR.31, 34 and 39). Attention is also drawn to the general debate held by the Committee at its 2nd to 6th meetings, from 3 to 5 October (see A/C.2/66/SR.2-6).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme on its twenty-third session (11-15 April 2011) (A/66/8);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) (A/66/281);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III) (A/66/282);

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(d) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting his report on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda (A/66/326);

(e) Letter dated 27 September 2011 from the Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Ministerial Declaration adopted at the thirty-fifth annual meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of 77, held at United Nations Headquarters on 23 September 2011 (A/66/388).

4. At the 31st meeting, on 1 November, the Executive Director of UN-Habitat made an introductory statement and responded to a question posed by the representative of Mexico (see A/C.2/66/SR.31).

II. Consideration of draft resolutions A/C.2/66/L.36 and A/C.2/66/L.75

5. At the 34th meeting, on 10 November, the representative of Argentina, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)" (A/C.2/66/L.36), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolution 65/165 of 20 December 2010 and all other previous resolutions on the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat),

"*Recalling also* Economic and Social Council resolution 2011/21 of 27 July 2011, and all other previous resolutions of the Council on human settlements,

"*Recalling further* the goal contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the 2005 World Summit Outcome of achieving a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers by 2020 and the goal contained in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ('Johannesburg Plan of Implementation') to halve, by 2015, the proportion of people who lack access to safe drinking water and sanitation,

"*Recalling* the Habitat Agenda, the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium, the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,

"*Expressing its concern* about the continuing increase in the number of slum-dwellers in the world, despite the attainment of the Millennium Development Goal target of achieving a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers by 2020,

"*Taking note* of the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, in particular

paragraph 77 (k), by which Heads of State and Government committed themselves to working towards cities without slums, beyond current targets, by reducing slum populations and improving the lives of slum-dwellers, with adequate support of the international community, by prioritizing national urban planning strategies with the participation of all stakeholders, by promoting equal access for people living in slums to public services, including health, education, energy, water and sanitation and adequate shelter, and by promoting sustainable urban and rural development, and encouraging UN-Habitat to continue providing the necessary technical assistance,

"*Also taking note* of resolution 23/9 of 15 April 2011 of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat, by which the Council invited Governments and regional and local authorities to enumerate the slum populations in their countries, regions and urban areas and, on that basis, to set voluntary and realistic national, regional and local targets, to be attained by 2020, with regard to improving significantly the lives of slum-dwellers,

"*Recognizing* the negative impact of environmental degradation, including climate change, desertification and loss of biodiversity, on human settlements,

"*Welcoming with appreciation* the important contribution of UN-Habitat, within its mandate, to more cost-effective transitions between emergency relief, recovery and reconstruction, and also its participation in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee,

"*Welcoming* the progress being made by UN-Habitat in the implementation of its medium-term strategic and institutional plan for the period 2008-2013 and its efforts, as a non-resident agency, in helping programme countries to mainstream the Habitat Agenda into their respective development frameworks,

"*Also welcoming* the offer of the Government of Italy and the city of Naples to host the sixth session of the World Urban Forum from 1 to 7 September 2012,

"*Recognizing* the continuing need for increased and predictable financial contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation to ensure timely, effective and concrete global implementation of the Habitat Agenda, the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium and the relevant internationally agreed development goals,

"*Taking note* of resolution 23/10 of 15 April 2011 of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat, by which the Council requested the Executive Director to explore as expeditiously as possible and to select, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives of UN-Habitat, a partnership model with development finance institutions for future lending, guarantee and financial advisory services in the urban upgrading and housing finance sectors, while UN-Habitat would focus on normative and global advocacy work in those areas,

"*Recalling* its resolution 64/207 of 21 December 2009, by which it took note of the recommendation made by the Governing Council of UN-Habitat in

its resolution 22/1 of 3 April 2009 and, having considered the question of convening, in 2016, a third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III), requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report on that question, in collaboration with the Governing Council, for consideration by the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session,

"*Recalling also* that, in its resolution 65/165, it requested the Governing Council of UN-Habitat to consider the possibility of integrating into the preparatory process for Habitat III the two themes of 'housing finance systems' and 'sustainable urbanization', previously suggested as topics for high-level events of the General Assembly,

"1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda, on the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) as well as the report of the Secretary-General on the third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III);

"2. *Decides* to convene in 2016, in line with the bi-decennial cycle (1976, 1996 and 2016), a third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III) to reinvigorate the global commitment to sustainable urbanization that should focus on the implementation of a 'New Urban Agenda', which should build on the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium and the relevant internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration and the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development and Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and other relevant international United Nations conferences, and requests a modalities resolution to be adopted before the end of 2012;

"3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide all appropriate support to the Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), who will serve as the Secretary-General of the third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development and Head of its secretariat, and to prepare a report on the modalities of the conference for submission and consideration by the General Assembly before the end of 2012;

"4. *Invites* Governments and regional and local authorities, in accordance with national legislation, to enumerate the population living in slums in their countries, regions and urban areas and, on that basis, to set, with the support of the international community, voluntary and realistic national, regional and local targets, to be attained by 2020, with regard to improving significantly the lives of slum-dwellers, in line with resolution 23/9 of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat, entitled 'Global and national strategies and frameworks for improving the lives of slum-dwellers beyond the Millennium Development Goals target';

"5. *Invites* the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) to provide, in line with its medium-term strategic and institutional plan for the period 2008-2013, or its subsequent strategic plan,

technical and advisory assistance to Governments and regional and local authorities wishing to assess their slum population levels and trends, set voluntary national, regional and local 2020 targets, prepare national, regional and local slum prevention and upgrading strategies and plans, formulate and implement slum upgrading and housing programmes and monitor implementation progress, and to report periodically to the Governing Council and the General Assembly;

"6. *Welcomes* the progress made by UN-Habitat in the implementation of its medium-term strategic and institutional plan for the period 2008-2013, and takes note of the conclusions of the midterm review of the plan submitted to the Governing Council of UN-Habitat at its twenty-third session;

"7. *Urges* UN-Habitat to explore a partnership model with development finance institutions for future lending, guarantee and financial advisory services in line with Governing Council resolution 23/10 and to continue to maximize UN-Habitat's comparative advantage around its normative work on urban upgrading, housing and basic services for the poor;

"8. *Reiterates* its encouragement to UN-Habitat to continue, within its mandate and in line with the medium-term strategic and institutional plan for the period 2008-2013, its existing cooperation on issues related to cities and climate change and to continue to play a complementary role in matters related to climate change within the United Nations system, in particular in addressing the vulnerability of cities to climate change, including through further normative work and expansion of its technical assistance to towns and cities on local action for the mitigation of urban-based greenhouse gas emissions and adaptation to climate change, with a focus on vulnerable urban populations, slum-dwellers, the urban poor and at-risk populations;

"9. *Stresses* the importance of timely action by UN-Habitat in response to natural and human-made disasters, in particular through its work in addressing post-disaster and post-conflict housing and infrastructure needs through its normative and operational work as part of the continuum from emergency relief to recovery and to urban development through effective urban planning;

"10. *Invites* the international donor community and financial institutions to contribute generously to UN-Habitat through increased financial contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, including the Water and Sanitation Trust Fund and the technical cooperation trust funds, and invites Governments in a position to do so and other stakeholders to provide predictable multi-year funding and increased non-earmarked contributions;

"11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

"12. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session an item entitled 'Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)', and a sub-item entitled

'Progress report on the state of preparations for the third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III)'."

6. At its 39th meeting, on 6 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)" (A/C.2/66/L.75), submitted by the Rapporteur on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.36.

7. At the same meeting, the Secretary of the Committee read out a statement of the programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

8. Also at its 39th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.75 (see para. 11).

9. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.75, draft resolution A/C.2/66/L.36 was withdrawn by its sponsors.

10. After the adoption of the draft resolution, a statement was made by the representative of Turkey (see A/C.2/66/SR.39).

III. Recommendation of the Second Committee

11. The Second Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 65/165 of 20 December 2010 and all other previous resolutions on the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat),

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolution 2011/21 of 27 July 2011 and all other previous resolutions of the Council on human settlements,

Recalling further the goal contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration[1] and the 2005 World Summit Outcome[2] of achieving a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers by 2020 and the goal contained in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation")[3] to halve, by 2015, the proportion of people who lack access to safe drinking water and sanitation,

Recalling the Habitat Agenda,[4] the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium,[5] the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation and the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,[6]

Expressing its concern about the continuing increase in the number of slum-dwellers in the world, despite the attainment of the Millennium Development Goal target of achieving a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers by 2020,

Taking note of the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,[7] in particular paragraph 77 (k), in which Heads of State and Government committed themselves to working towards cities without slums, beyond current targets, by reducing slum populations and improving the lives of slum-dwellers, with adequate support of the international

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[1] See resolution 55/2.

[2] See resolution 60/1.

[3] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[4] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[5] Resolution S-25/2, annex.

[6] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[7] See resolution 65/1.

community, by prioritizing national urban planning strategies with the participation of all stakeholders, by promoting equal access for people living in slums to public services, including health, education, energy, water and sanitation and adequate shelter, and by promoting sustainable urban and rural development, and encouraging UN-Habitat to continue providing the necessary technical assistance,

Taking note also of resolution 23/9 of 15 April 2011 of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat, entitled "Global and national strategies and frameworks for improving the lives of slum-dwellers beyond the Millennium Development Goals target",[8]

Recognizing the negative impacts of environmental degradation, including climate change, desertification and loss of biodiversity, on human settlements,

Welcoming with appreciation the important contribution of UN-Habitat, within its mandate, to more cost-effective transitions between emergency relief, recovery and reconstruction, and also its participation in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee,

Welcoming the progress being made by UN-Habitat in the implementation of its medium-term strategic and institutional plan for the period 2008-2013 and its efforts, as a non-resident agency, in helping programme countries to mainstream the Habitat Agenda into their respective development frameworks,

Welcoming also the offer of the Government of Italy and the city of Naples to host the sixth session of the World Urban Forum from 1 to 7 September 2012,

Recognizing the continuing need for adequate and predictable financial contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation so as to ensure timely, effective and concrete global implementation of the Habitat Agenda, the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium and the relevant internationally agreed development goals,

Taking note of resolution 23/10 of 15 April 2011 of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat, entitled "Future activities by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in urban economy and financial mechanisms for urban upgrading, housing and basic services for the urban poor",[8]

Recalling its resolution 64/207 of 21 December 2009, in which it took note of the recommendation made by the Governing Council of UN-Habitat in its resolution 22/1 of 3 April 2009 and, having considered the question of convening, in 2016, a third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III), requested the Secretary-General to prepare a report on that question, in collaboration with the Governing Council, for consideration by the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session,

Recalling also its resolution 65/165, in which it encouraged the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Governing Council of UN-Habitat and in discussion with all the partners of the Habitat Agenda, to consider the possibility of integrating the two themes of "housing finance systems" and "sustainable urbanization" into the preparatory process of Habitat III,

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[8] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 8* (A/66/8), annex, sect. B.

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda,[9] on the implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)[10] and on the third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III);[11]

2. *Decides* to convene in 2016, in line with the bi-decennial cycle (1976, 1996 and 2016), a third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III) to reinvigorate the global commitment to sustainable urbanization that should focus on the implementation of a "New Urban Agenda", which should build on the Habitat Agenda,[4] the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium[5] and the relevant internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[1] the Johannesburg Declaration on Sustainable Development[12] and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation,[3] and the outcomes of other major United Nations conferences and summits;

3. *Acknowledges* in this regard the importance of the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012;

4. *Emphasizes* that the Conference and its preparatory process should take full advantage of planned meetings by aligning with the twenty-fourth and twenty-fifth sessions of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat and with the sixth and seventh sessions of the World Urban Forum, and encourages the regular regional ministerial conferences on housing and urban development and other relevant expert group meetings to support the activities of the preparatory process, taking into account that the Conference and its preparatory process should be carried out in the most inclusive, efficient, effective and improved manner;

5. *Decides* to consider before the end of 2012 the scope, modalities, format and organization of the third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development (Habitat III), in a most efficient and effective manner;

6. *Invites* the Secretary-General to appoint the Executive Director of UN-Habitat to serve as Secretary-General of the third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development and to act as focal point on behalf of the United Nations system;

7. *Invites* Governments and regional and local authorities, in accordance with national legislation, to enumerate the populations living in slums in their countries, regions and urban areas and, on that basis, to set, with the support of the international community, voluntary and realistic national, regional and local targets, to be attained by 2020, with regard to improving significantly the lives of slum-dwellers, in line with resolution 23/9 of 15 April 2011 of the Governing Council of UN-Habitat, entitled "Global and national strategies and frameworks for

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[9] See A/66/326.

[10] A/66/281.

[11] A/66/282.

[12] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

improving the lives of slum-dwellers beyond the Millennium Development Goals target";[8]

8. *Invites* UN-Habitat to provide, within its current budget and in line with its medium-term strategic and institutional plan for the period 2008-2013, or its subsequent strategic plan, technical and advisory assistance to Governments and regional and local authorities wishing to assess their slum population levels and trends, set voluntary national, regional and local 2020 targets, prepare national, regional and local slum prevention and upgrading strategies and plans, formulate and implement slum upgrading and housing programmes and monitor the progress of implementation, and to report periodically to the Governing Council and the General Assembly;

9. *Welcomes* the progress made by UN-Habitat in the implementation of its medium-term strategic and institutional plan for the period 2008-2013, and takes note of the conclusions of the midterm review of the plan submitted to the Governing Council of UN-Habitat at its twenty-third session;[13]

10. *Encourages* UN-Habitat to continue to work on the strategic plan for 2014-2019 in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, in an open and transparent manner, setting realistic and achievable goals for the period it covers;

11. *Takes note* of the report of the Executive Director on the review of the governance structure of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme,[14] and encourages UN-Habitat to move this process forward, in cooperation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, in order to continue on its path towards the improvement of its transparency, accountability, efficiency and effectiveness;

12. *Notes* the request made by the Governing Council of UN-Habitat in its resolution 23/10[8] that the Executive Director, in building on the lessons learned from the experimental reimbursable seeding operations and slum upgrading facility programmes, shift the focus of the work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in the area of human settlements financing towards strengthening its normative approaches to urban economy and the promotion of finance for urban upgrading, housing and basic services for the urban poor, while taking into account geographical and regional balance, as well as the request to explore as expeditiously as possible and to select, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, a partnership model with development finance institutions for future lending, guarantee and financial advisory services in the urban upgrading and housing finance sectors;

13. *Reiterates its encouragement* to UN-Habitat to continue, within its mandate and in line with the medium-term strategic and institutional plan for the period 2008-2013, its existing cooperation on issues related to cities and climate change and to continue to play a complementary role in matters related to climate change within the United Nations system, in particular in addressing the vulnerability of cities to climate change, including through further normative work and expansion of its technical assistance to towns and cities on local action for the mitigation of urban-based greenhouse gas emissions and adaptation to climate

[13] HSP/GC/23/5/Add.3.

[14] HSP/GC/23/2/Add.1.

change, with a focus on vulnerable urban populations, slum-dwellers, the urban poor and at-risk populations;

14. *Stresses* the importance of timely action by UN-Habitat in response to natural and human-made disasters, in particular through its work in addressing post-disaster and post-conflict housing and infrastructure needs through its normative and operational work as part of the continuum from emergency relief to recovery and to urban development through effective urban planning;

15. *Reiterates its support* for the dissemination and implementation of the guidelines on decentralization and strengthening of local authorities and the guidelines on access to basic services for all, approved by the Governing Council of UN-Habitat in its resolutions 21/3 of 20 April 2007[15] and 22/8 of 3 April 2009,[16] respectively, and reaffirmed by the Governing Council in its resolution 23/12 of 15 April 2011;[8]

16. *Invites* the international donor community and financial institutions to contribute generously to UN-Habitat through increased voluntary financial contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, including the Water and Sanitation Trust Fund and the technical cooperation trust funds, and invites Governments in a position to do so and other stakeholders to provide predictable multi-year funding and increased non-earmarked contributions;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session a report on the implementation of the present resolution;

18. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-seventh session an item entitled "Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)".

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[15] *See Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 8* (A/62/8), annex I, sect. B.

[16] Ibid., *Sixty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 8* (A/64/8), annex I, sect. B.